(c) the quantity of above foodgrains actually released for the BPL card holders in the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRI RAM CHAUHAN): (a) As per the reports received from the State Governments UT Administrations,' the total number of BPL card holders in the country during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were 715.18 lakhs and 719.65 lakhs respectively.

(b) and (c) The total quantity of rice and wheat allocated to the States UTs for BPL during the years 1998- 99 and 1999-2000, and the quantity of above foodgrains actually lifted by the State/UTs are as under:

(in 000 tonnes)

Year	Rice		Wheat		Total	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake	Alloction	Offtake
1998-99	3978.67	3348.61	3137.84	2622.05	7116.51	5970.66
1999-2000	4032.366	3375.954*	3173.928	2057.934	7206.294	5433.888

* Offtake upto February, 2000.

FCI's Procurement Centres

3676. LALA LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI has intimated the State agencies about the details of centres at which they want to get mandi delivery of wheat;

(b) whether the State agencies are holding godowns/plinths accommodation for storage of wheat at the stations were FCI wants to get mandi delivery of wheat; and

(c) if not, whether FCI has any long-term planning to construct new godowns/plint/Ceilo for storage of wheat, keeping in view the increased produciton and slow transportation of wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRI RAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. The details are worked out at local level by the F.C.I. State wise position is at the enclosed Statement. *(See* below)

(b) In some stations, the State Agencies are also having their own godowns/ plinths or hired godowns/ plinths for accommodating their procured wheat stocks at the stations where FCI also want to get the direct mandi delivery of wheat, if the State agencies are unable to give direct deliveries to FCI, and FCI godowns remain vacant, FCI withhold the carryover charges/incidentals. In U.P., where decentralised procurement Scheme has commenced the State Government will retain procured wheat in their godowns for futher issue under Public Distribution System for the whole year, only surplus wheat stocks above the requirement of State Government will be delivered to FCI in Central Pool.

(c) FCI constructs its own godowns at strategic locations depending upon the budgetary allocations. During the Current 9th Five year Plan (1997-2002), 1.79 lakh MT storage capacity has already been constructed upto February, 000. Besides, construction of 2.70 lakh MT capacity godowns by the 18(CWC)/ other agencies for the use of FCI has also been approved during the current Five year Plan. Storage facilities for the increased procurement are generally met by hiring storage capacity from CWC, State Warehousing Corporation, State Govt. and private parties.

Statement

1. PUNJAB: So far no intimation has been made to State Government and its agencies for direct delivery of wheat during Rabi 2000-2001. The position is being assessed.

2. HARYANA: FCI has directed its District Managers to intimate the details of the centres to concerned agencies where FCI can get direct deliveries from the State agencies from the local mandies as per the availability of stocks. Details have been worked out and action is being taken. FCI intends to take over direct delivery of wheat from the State agencies to the extent of about 3 lakh MTs during ensuing Rabi marketing season.

   M.P.: After introduction of wheat procurement under decentralised procurement scheme, the State agency (MPSCSC) will retain their own requirement of P.D.S., and surplus wheat will be deposited to the FCI under the Central Pool. The agency MPSCSC has intimated that surplus wheat stocks will be deposited at Bhopal, Vidisha, Itarsi. Indore, Ujjain and Tikamgarh to the tune of 1.55 lakh MTs.

4. U.P.: U.P. State Govt. has started the decentralised procurement scheme. There are 7 different State procuring agencies for opening their purchase centres for purchase of what. FCI has also opened 41 purchase centres in the Eastern U.P.

5. RAJASTHAN: In Rajasthan, the State agencies VIZ. RSWC and Rajfed are working as sub-agents of FCI and deliver the procured wheat on day-to-day basis at FCI godowns.

Administering the Sugar Control

3677. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people below poverty line in the country who actually get sugar from PDS;

(b) the amount of subsidy on sugar for the PDS earmarked for this year;

(c) the reasons for not dismantling the whole edifice on sugar control and divert these funds to further subsidise the rice/wheat given to the below poverty line families through PDS; and

(d) the outflow of funds for administering the sugar control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) At present, sugar is distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to Below Poverty Line as well as Above Poverty Line families. The allotment of sugar to the States for distribution is based on the population figures projected as on 1st March, 1999 by the Registrar General which is 9813.25 lakhs. The Government has decided to exclude the income tax assesses and their family members for PDS sugar with effect from 1st July, 2000. A budget provision of Rs. 110 crores for sugar subsidy has been made in the budget for the current financial year 2000-2001. Sugar is an essential commodity. As such, its production, distribution and consumption is being controlled in public interest.

(d) Directorate of Sugar, an attached office of the Department of Sugar & Edible Oils, has been entrusted the task of adminitering of sugar control. However, the Directorate, apart from administering the sugar control, also undertakes other functions like monitoring of prices, imports, cane price arrears, collection of statistics relating to sugar industry, technical/supervisory functions